

'That which is good for the working class I esteem patriotic ...' *John Connolly*

EVICTIION — LIMERICK-STYLE

EVICTIIONS are never 'nice'. The stigma of depriving a human being of shelter is not easily swallowed, even in a capitalist society. But this does not stop evictions. A recent Limerick event clearly shows that property-owners will not scruple to use evictions in their lust for quick profits.

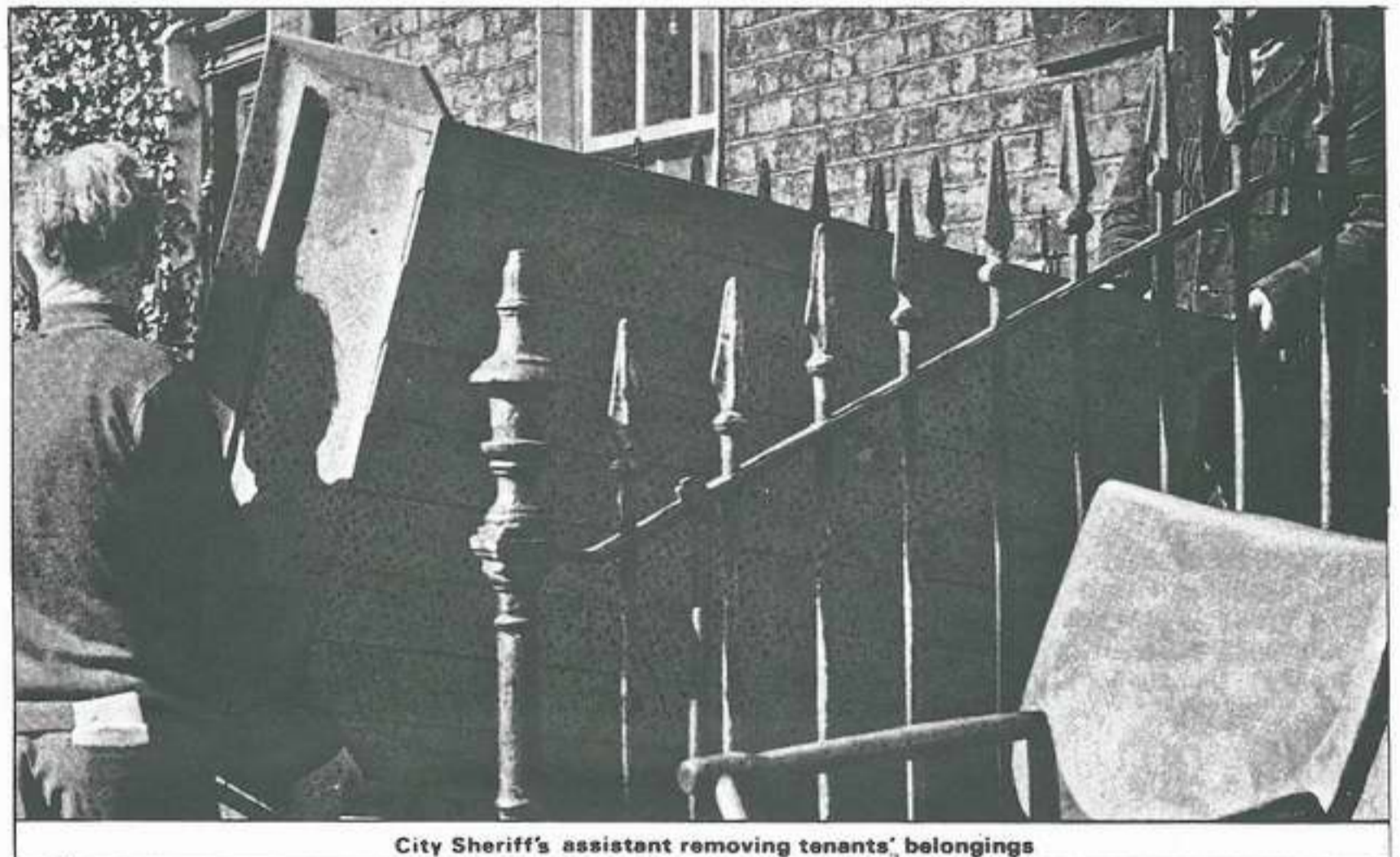
On Tuesday, March 28, an eviction involving four people was quietly and successfully carried out at 10 Newenham Street. The main tenant was Mrs Mary Minogue, and the house was owned by Gordon Holmes, State Solicitor and Dermot Morrissey-Murphy, solicitor. The house and two adjoining houses, had been bought from Paddy O'Brien (Kennedy O'Brien) in December 1970. In February 1971, the main tenants were served with notice of court orders to quit the houses. At this stage the main tenant at No. 10 had lived in the house for over 33 years and the tenant at No. 12 for 30 years.

In October, a new lease of £5 a week rent with the repairs to be carried out by the tenant, was offered to the tenant at No. 10, who previously had been paying £11-3-4 rent a month. As the house was in a bad state of repair the tenant, a widow, could not afford to meet the new lease. With a court case concerning the order to quit pending, the tenant agreed to accept £1,000 compensation for the landlords' 'possession granted by consent' and to allow the court order to go through uncontested. This agreement did not make any provision for securing alternative accommodation. The tenant at No. 12 proved a tougher nut to crack and refused the offer of £1,000 compensation, on the grounds that it would not be adequate to secure suitable alternative accommodation.

While negotiations were going on with this tenant the case took a turn. The tenant received notice on January 3, 1972 that Tony O'Mara, a near-millionaire motor dealer, had become the new owner of the houses. So twelve months after buying the three houses for £5,000 Holmes and Morrissey-Murphy had sold the property to O'Mara for £12,000. Meanwhile Holmes and Morrissey-Murphy kept up the pressure on the tenant at No. 10. The tenant had agreed to be out of the house by March 1, and on February 3 a letter from 'Michael Sellors', the office of Morrissey-Murphy, headed 'Murphy & Holmes v. Minogue', stated:

'Our clients are most anxious to obtain possession of the property on the 1st prox and are in a position to pay the agreed compensation to your clients.

'If your client therefore would arrange to give you the key of the property with



City Sheriff's assistant removing tenants' belongings

vacant possession we will arrange to let you have the cheque.'

March 1 loomed closer and the tenant and her three sub-tenants found great difficulty in getting alternative accommodation. On Friday 24 March nothing suitable had turned up when Bunty McLoughlin, bailiff, called on the four women and told them he would be forced to carry out the eviction order on the following Tuesday. On the Monday evening the main tenant contacted Ald S. Coughlan and he promised to get the eviction delayed for a month. On the same evening one of the four women retired to Rosanna House.

On Tuesday morning the bailiff returned and was told by the women that Coughlan had arranged a month's stay on the eviction. He said he had heard nothing about this but that he would check with Morrissey-Murphy. Murphy told him there could be no postponement: the eviction would have to go on.

As the eviction proceeded a neighbour tipped-off the 'Limerick Leader' and the 'Limerick Weekly Echo'. Reporters, Peter O'Malley of the 'Echo', and Billy Kelly of the 'Leader' were quickly dispatched to cover the story. At this stage the papers had no knowledge of the powerful owners or the implications involved. The scene had all the ingredients for the scoop of the year: three old women huddled in a

downstairs room; the bailiff and assistant humping the precious possessions down the stairs and on to the street; the wealthy property-owner, O'Mara, skulking in the background; and the social workers patiently waiting to pick up the human pieces.

O'Malley and Kelly set about their jobs and began to ask awkward questions. The involvement of Holmes and Morrissey-Murphy was disclosed. O'Mara was contacted but refused to give any explanation. The evicted women spoke freely to the reporters and the whole story became clear. O'Malley and Kelly returned to their offices and wrote-up the story. But the word was out: they had been spotted at the scene and Holmes and Murphy had been alerted. The solicitors lost no time: Morrissey-Murphy called personally to the 'Leader' office and had a friendly chat with Bernard Carey, news editor. Kelly's report was scrapped. Meanwhile Gordon Holmes phoned Arthur Quinlan, editor of the 'Echo', and O'Malley's story was still-born.

In Newenham Street the eviction continued. The women and their belongings had been put out on the streets with no prospects of another house. Around 4 p.m. the eviction was completed. The Social Service Centre contacted the Corporation and secured a four-roomed flat for the women. Two nuns and a Brother brought the

continued overleaf

EVICTION

continued from front page

women and their belongings to their new abode.

On the bottom of the front page of the 'Limerick Leader' on the following Thursday, April 1, a short report of 41-words, with the headline: 'Tenant Gave Consent', stated: 'It was learned on inquiries by our reporter that the Limerick woman reported to be evicted from her home in Newenham Street had given her consent to possession and had received £1,000 compensation.

'All those involved have received alternative accommodation.' Thus, through this ambiguous and misleading statement, was the 'freedom' of the press upheld.

So O'Mara had his house, Holmes and Morrissey-Murphy had their money, the main tenant had her £1,000 and, with the other tenants, a Corporation flat and the press had successfully suppressed a 'scandal'. In a society constantly preening itself on its fidelity to the principles of 'loving thy

neighbour as thy self' and 'cherishing all ... equally', why was the Newenham Street eviction allowed to happen without a murmur of protest? The 'rights' of private property will always take priority over people in capitalist society. The system is based on the principle of exploitation of man by man and, to this end, evictions, take-overs and all the other tactics of capitalism are valid. It is a system in which 'the biggest and greediest pig gets the most swill.' It is in the very nature of capitalism that even young, wealthy people like O'Mara, Holmes and Morrissey Murphy, despite the lucrative 'normal' occupations, should involve themselves in speculation and an eviction in pursuing their dedication to profits.

The myth of 'freedom' of the press has

never been taken seriously, least of all by pressmen themselves. The chief function of newspapers in our society is to make money and to serve the capitalist system. In a provincial situation the press must at all times take care not to offend their wealthy advertisers and professional people. Dog does not eat dog in this game.

Connolly foresaw this situation clearly when he wrote: 'After Ireland is free, says the patriot who won't touch socialism, we will protect all classes ... But the evicting party, under command of the sheriff, will wear green uniforms and the Harp without the Crown and the warrant turning you out on the roadside will be stamped with the arms of the Irish Republic.

'Now, isn't that worth fighting for?'

Requiem for an eviction

They came with an eviction order
piled our ancient furniture
high on the March street
to greet Press reporters
who duly reduced our lives
to ruled note-book lines.

Times are hard old Annie ...
a mean little pension strains
to stretch the blank week
exist on tea, bread and marge
while a discreet guardian angel
'our' Social Service Centre hovers
with suitable concern.

Times are brisk old boy
drink your brandy, have another
invest in property, gilt-edged I say
tenants? ... no problem ...
a few quid can move a lot
it can be kept off the papers
Editors are quite co-operative.

They took pictures of our agony
exposed, undeveloped social negatives
they even seemed slightly concerned
the eviction was politically ordered
within the bounds of Christian legality
and when the solicitors' calls came
the press freedom committed suicide.

Now the heartbreak is hidden
money and fear have smothered all
respectability had preserved its image.
No scandal had been seen
it was just a Limerick non-event
the skeleton was under lock and key.

Was it necessary? Was it wrong?
the question did not arise
State, Church and Press were busy
and looked the other way.
It was a Holy Week happening
and the faithful-filled Churches stayed
exemplary blind.

The hands are now well-washed
memories wiped away ...
it was a Limerick eviction
stamped in archives of guilt.

SOCIAL POTMENDER

THE NUMBER of cases dealt with by the Limerick Social Service Centre, Henry Street, is increasing every year. The Social Service Council was founded in 1966 and by 1969 the total number of file cases was 1,002, which by March 1970 had grown to 1,419 cases. From 1970 to 1971 a total of 1,970 cases were on file, with 551 additional new cases added for the year. Every human problem which is a direct result of the present system is dealt with by social workers attached to the Centre. One of the largest problems which confronted the social workers was the provision of financial assistance for 208 people and families during the past year as compared with 147 the previous year.

In addition to this, social workers made 7,042 visits to homes of the people who experienced these problems and a total of 5,416 office interviews were conducted. The Centre employs eight paid social workers and each has responsibility for a specific area of the city.

Inadequate housing accounted for a large number of cases. Housing caused hardship to over 230 people, 79 had acute difficulty in getting accommodation, and 38 had no fixed abode.

Over 100 people suffered from health problems and the Centre dealt with 89 cases of serious marital disharmony. Thirty three unmarried mothers were helped to cope with their situation and the Centre assisted with 18 adoptions.

The Social Service Council was founded by Dr. Murphy, the Bishop of Limerick. The building was once a school and its renovation was financed by a donation of £5,000 from each of the following sources: Catholic Literary Institute, Government Grant, contributions from the people in the parishes in the diocese, and from what could be called the bishop's pin money, charitable bequests.

Since its foundation, the Social Service Centre has tried to co-ordinate the work of the various voluntary organisations seeking to patch-up the gaping holes of our 'affluent' society.

It is significant that in what are considered 'prosperous' times, the gap between those who 'have' and those who 'have not' is increasing. The Social Service Centre strives to fill the gap

between the meagre State Assistance grants and the 'charitable' organisations. By its very existence, the Centre objectively acts as an aid to capitalist exploitation by attacking the results, but never the system itself. Social workers may consider that they are doing a good job, but are they politically aware enough to realise how they serve the system? To give an example: Last year the Centre dealt with 234 people, who through inadequate housing, suffered hardship. Yet no-one, the social workers, the people who run the Centre, or the bishop who has ultimate responsibility, has said what forced hardship on these people. Why did these people have to suffer? Why did they have to run to the Social Service Centre? No... these questions are not answered. While questions like these are avoided, social workers and bishops, are content to mouth about the 'terrible problems caused by lack of housing,' but never expose the system which makes sure that there will always be a lack of housing.

State neglect is propped up by the Centre, although this is not made clear in last year's report. By virtue of this, we can assume that the role of the Centre has been examined by those responsible for its operation and that they have decided not to attack the system—a system, which, through low wages, redundancy, unemployment, bad housing, hire purchase abuse and inadequate social benefits, hits hardest at the working class. Viewed in this context, the Limerick Social Service Centre is like a tiny pot-mender on the bottom of a sinking ship. '... Is not this attitude symbolic of the attitude of the Church for hundreds of years? Ever counselling humility, but sitting in the seats of the mighty; ever patching up the diseased and broken wrecks of an unjust social system, but blessing the system which made the wrecks and spread the disease; ever running divine discontent and pity into the ground as a lightning rod runs and dissipates lightning, instead of gathering it and directing it for social righteousness as the electric battery generates and directs electricity for social use. The day has passed for patching up the capitalist system; it must go ...' (James Connolly, 'Labour, Nationality and Religion').

SCENE ONE:

A Knock on the Door

HOLY WEEK this year began quietly enough. City churches advertised their services and ceremonies. On Tuesday morning, March 28, a man knocked on the door of 10 Newenham Street, with an eviction order in his hand. He did not dwell long on ceremony; he had a job to do; Dermot Morrissey-Murphy, solicitor, had given the command.

In action, the coatless Bunty McLoughlin, Sheriff's man aided by Dealer assistant, a cowboy-like figure complete with dark glasses and buckskin coat. They spent their day lugging furniture and personal effects on to the street. Piece after piece was piled high on the street and in a nearby laneway. Four old women lived in the house; it was wanted for development; so they had to go. The night before the eviction, one of the four admitted defeat and retired to Rosanna House.

The only concession extended to the remaining three was that they were allowed to sit in a large empty downstairs room. There, huddled around a grate, they saw their personal belongings ravaged by strange hands and dumped on the street.

The reason: A Court Order—an eviction 'by consent' as the main tenant Mrs. Mary Minnogue, widow, who lived in the house for 34 years, had been promised £1,000 compensation by the solicitors, Gordon Holmes, State Solicitor, and Dermot Morrissey-Murphy.

Said Mrs. Minnogue: 'I was due to be out on March 1, but I could find nowhere to go. Neither have I received the £1,000 or anything in writing.'

Her fellow sufferers were Miss Mary Donnellan and Miss Ellen Larkin. An eye witness: 'The three women had their coats on and were sitting around the grate. The paper was falling off the damp walls and the room was empty. It was a pathetic sight. The three old women were heart-broken.'

While the savagery of the solicitors tortured the women, another drama was unfolding at the Limerick newspaper offices. Reporters and a photographer had been spotted at the scene. No time was lost ... the solicitors went into action. Holmes succeeded in preventing the 'Weekly Echo', edited by Arthur Quinlan, publishing the story; and Morrissey-Murphy tackled the Bernard Carey, News Editor of the 'Limerick Leader'. But the story was out so Brendan Halligan, 'Limerick Leader' Editor, accepted a brief and distorted formula for Thursday's city edition.

It was a misleading paragraph and one of the most dishonest pieces of journalism ever to appear on that paper. Morrissey-Murphy and Holmes had to keep the eviction story off the papers, lest it would embarrass them and the new owner, Tony O'Mara, of the Mulgrave Street motor firm.

All through the long day the eviction continued. The Social Service Centre obtained a large flat for the women, and helped by Sr. Miriam Joseph and Bro. Joseph Kelly, they were ferried to the new abode by Redemptorist van. By eight that evening their furniture had been moved, although some of it was stolen, and more left behind on the street. The eviction had been successfully executed.

holy week

A MODERN TRAGEDY IN TWO SCENES

The cast:

GORDON HOLMES
State solicitor and landlord

DERMOT MORRISSEY-MURPHY
Solicitor and landlord

TONY O'MARA
Wealthy motor dealer and landlord

MARY MINNOGUE
Main tenant and widow

MARY DONNELLAN
Sub-tenant and hotel worker

ELLEN LARKIN
Sub-tenant, 81-year-old woman

BUNTY McLOUGHLIN
Bailiff

BERNARD CAREY
News Editor, 'Limerick Leader'

ARTHUR QUINLAN
Editor, 'Limerick Weekly Echo'

BRENDAN HALLIGAN
Editor, 'Limerick Leader'

PETER O'MALLEY
Ex-reporter, 'Limerick Weekly Echo'

BILLY KELLY
Junior reporter, 'Limerick Leader'

Supporting roles:

Some local solicitors; Bailiff and assistant; Sr. Miriam Joseph, social worker; Bro. Joseph Kelly, Redemptorist; and a crowd of interested onlookers

A Tale of Two Widows

"Tenant Gave Consent

"It is learned on inquiries by our reporter that the Limerick woman reported to be evicted from her home this week in Newenham Street had given her consent to possession and had received £1,000 compensation.

"All those involved have received alternative accommodation."

('Limerick Leader', April 1, '72).

"£22,000

"A bungalow in Castletroy, built by the late Mr. Andy Donovan, has been sold for £22,000 by Begley Bourke Ltd., Auctioneers. The Spanish style building has been purchased by Mrs. M. McMahon, widow of Mr. Arthur McMahon."

('Limerick Leader', April 1, '72).

SCENE TWO

Good Friday Confession

IT WAS FRIDAY. Good Friday. The hall was cluttered with their collected belongings ... the treasured possessions of three lifetimes. The rooms were large and bare. The gas was not connected ... but the weekly rent had been fixed. The Limerick Corporation has a cold-blooded priority list.

The youngest of the three women, 65-year-old, Mary, is making a cup of tea. She is recovering from a serious illness and cannot work. She receives £4.90 a week social welfare benefit. In the house from which she was evicted she paid a weekly rent of £11.50. 'I got an extra 15/- from the Assistance because I was paying the rent. Now that I will have to pay only 16/- here, I am afraid they will cut that extra 15/-,' she said.

Born in Monaghan, she had worked in hotels. 'I came to Kilkee over twelve years ago. After the holiday season my job and my money ran out and I came to Limerick. I settled there,' she said.



Tenants' belongings stacked in a laneway

What did she think of the people responsible for her present plight? Stinkers ... they could have tried to find a house for us. They did not care. To them we were just like common dirt,' she said.

The second lady, Tournafulla-born, Ellen, aged 81, claimed it was the worst thing anyone could do. She has a total weekly income of £5.10. 'Once you have no money they want to know nothing about you,' she added.

Mary had lived in Belfast for some time and was by far the most politically conscious. 'They wouldn't treat you like this in Belfast. What we need here is Bernie Devlin and more like her. I think what she has to say is right. We should be all equal. No rich. At least that is what I think she stands for, from listening to her in Limerick,' she said.

Mary drank her tea and made her Holy Week confession: 'It's Good Friday ... and I haven't said a prayer all day ...'

EPILOGUE

AN IRON BED, a sofa, a table and chair remained in late evening Newenham Street. The pieces of shabby furniture were left there throughout Holy Week, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Monday. The pieces stood in silence, stark reminders of Limerick's powerful men who crushed four old women without mercy. Powerful Christians who crucified frail humanity in the interests of money. It happened in Limerick ... while the Holy Week ceremonies babbled irrelevantly on ...

part one

by jim kemmy

THE LIMERICK SOVIET

'God, what a world, if men in street and
mart,
Felt the same kinship of the human heart,
Which makes them, in the face of flame
and flood,
Rise to the meaning of true Brotherhood.'

THE LINES, culled from the Limerick workers' broadsheet, 'The Bottom Dog', of the period set the scene on the most militant chapter in the history of the Limerick working class. On January 13, 1919, a British court martial sentenced a local trade unionist, Robert J. Byrne, to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour, having found him guilty of being in possession of a revolver and ammunition. Byrne, who was Branch President of the Post Office Clerk's Association and a prominent member of the Limerick Trades and Labour Council, had earlier been dismissed from his job for his political activities.

In prison Byrne became leader of the other political prisoners, whom he led in a campaign of disobedience to secure proper treatment. Reprisals were taken against them. Police reinforcements were sent for and the prisoners were overpowered and beaten up. Byrne and the other prisoners were then subjected to cruel treatment; many had their boots removed and were kept handcuffed in their cells day and night; others were held in solitary confinement on a bread and water diet.

On Saturday, February 1, 1919, representatives of the workers of Limerick met to consider the situation and expressed their feelings in the following leaflet, distributed throughout the city:

'That we, the members of the Limerick Trades and Labour Council, assembled in conference, protest most emphatically against the treatment meted out to the political prisoners at present confined in Limerick County Jail, and view with grave alarm the inactivity of the visiting Justices and Medical Officer. Furthermore, we call on the public representatives to do their duty to their fellow-countrymen and take the necessary steps to have the prisoners receive what they are justly entitled to, namely, political treatment; that copies of this resolution be submitted to the local press, visiting Justices and Medical Officer.'

This protest was ignored, and having failed to secure political treatment, the prisoners went on hunger strike. After three weeks Byrne was in a weak condition and was removed to the hospital at the Limerick Union. He was placed in a general ward, under a heavy armed guard.

Plans were made for his rescue. His trade union and volunteer colleagues organised the operation carefully and at 3 p.m. on April 6 the attempt was made. An attack was made on the ward, and, in the ensuing fight, the weakened Byrne struggled to get up, but was shot through the chest and died at 8.30 p.m. that evening, in the house to which he had been carried.

In the attempted rescue one of the policemen guarding Byrne was killed, another was seriously wounded and four others received injuries. As a reprisal

against the attack and the death of the policeman, on April 7, 1919, the British military authorities in Ireland proclaimed the city of Limerick a special military area. Barriers with military and police guards, tanks and armoured cars were erected on all roads and bridges leading to the city. Special permits were necessary for all those entering or leaving the city. Those who needed permits had to present themselves at the office of the Military Commandant, 78 O'Connell Street, where their height, weight, colour of hair, eyes, and other details were recorded. In some cases, applicants for permits had to apply daily.

Strong resentment quickly manifested itself among the workers of Limerick against these intolerable conditions. In riposte to the proclamation, the action of the Trades and Labour Council was swift. A special general meeting of the Council, attended by representatives of thirty-five trade unions, was held on April 13 and it decided that the workers could not continue to work under such circumstances. A general strike was declared, which led to what became known as the Limerick Soviet.

A strike committee was elected to control the city, and sub-committees were appointed to take charge of propaganda, finance, food and vigilance. The strike was called at 11.30 p.m. on Sunday, and, with the help of a sympathetic printing works, which worked night and day during the strike, within two hours the city was covered with the following proclamation:

LIMERICK UNITED TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL PROCLAMATION

'The workers of Limerick, assembled in Council, hereby declare cessation of all work from 5 a.m. on Monday, April 14, 1919, as a protest against the decision of the British Government in compelling them to procure permits in order to earn their daily bread.

By order of the Strike Committee,
Mechanics' Institute.

Any information to the above can be had from the Strike Committee.'

The strike started and an estimated 15,000 workers obeyed the call. The Strike Committee published a people's news sheet, 'The Daily Bulletin', which carried a day-to-day account of the progress of the strike. A separate report of the day's activities was also prepared for the benefit of journalists. Through a unique coincidence journalists from all over the world were then in Limerick to report on the proposed transatlantic flight by Major Woods, who had planned to land in Limerick for re-fuelling. Included among the journalists were representatives of the 'Chicago Tribune', the Paris Matin and the Associated Press of America, an agency serving 750 papers. Consequently within 24 hours the workers of Limerick had captured the headlines in newspapers throughout the world.

The Strike Committee also designed and printed money, lists of food prices and various notices. The money was printed to

enable workers to buy food. Thousands of pounds, in denominations of 10/-, 5/- and 1/- notes, were printed and the money was backed by the Irish Labour Party and the Trade Union Congress.

Four distribution depots were established to supply food at fixed prices. Any trader not carrying out instructions or engaging in profiteering or unequal distribution of food was immediately closed down. Public houses were also kept closed for the duration of the strike. Groups of picketing workers ensured that shops opened and closed at the appointed times and regulated queues and controlled traffic. Every effort was made to prevent inconvenience and equality of classes was the guiding principle of the Strike Committee. James Casey has written: '... it was generally admitted that the city was never guarded or policed so well previously. The people, for once, were doing their own work, and doing it properly ... There was no looting, and not a single case came up for hearing at the Petty Sessions.'

Four city councillors controlled the collection and distribution of food. Approval was given to firms to save perishable goods and to transport such goods as coal, butter and flour from the docks and the railway station. Labour was provided for bakeries, gas and electricity works and other essential industries. Only vehicles displaying the notice, 'Working under authority of the Strike Committee' were allowed to travel on the streets.

James Casey, a member of the Strike Committee, has recorded: 'Whilst the Trades Council and Strike Committee controlled all activities inside Limerick city, during the General Strike, the Irish Republican Army was busy without. Supplies of much needed food for the beleaguered population were systematically collected from neighbouring towns and villages. After nightfall, relays of boats with muffled oars, were successfully used to run the food and other supplies through the blockade, and to maintain communication with the citizens. Numerous stratagems were employed to elude the military cordons, and funeral hearses from the Union Hospital and other districts outside the city, did not always have a corpse in the coffin.'

(To be continued)

poems

City of beautiful churches and spires,
City of pubs and lowly desires,
City of gossips that tell what they're told,
City of youth that just waits to grow old.

Society's city home of the snob,
Show me your penny before you hob-nob,
Do have some coffee, Oh do have a bun,
Do what the others do, do 'cause it's done.

Conventional city Victorian smug
Peas in their little pods, bugs in their
rug
Here is no night life, no Stygian fun,
They withstand temptation because
there is none.

Resenting the outsider's critical speech,
Playing a part they are frightened to
cease,
Professing a culture that they never knew,
Living their lives out with nothing to do.

CONFRATERNITY IN CRISIS

part two

THE CONFRATERNITY celebrated the centenary of its foundation on the first week of May, 1968. The President, Taoiseach, Cardinal Conway and ten bishops attended. The Bishop of Limerick, Dr. Murphy, in his opening sermon, reviewed the work of the Confraternity and outlined the need for change in the future. He said 'that it was right that one should not only recall the past but also look to the future ... it was proper to inquire whether the Confraternity that had served the men of Limerick so well during the past 100 years held equal possibilities in the renewed Church of the future ... This was a question that required and would continue to require the active consideration of the Confraternity directors and leaders during the coming years ... the Confraternity should be subject to continual renewal. It must be dynamic ... and ever-ready to act as a spearhead of social development in the city. He was confident that ... individual and community responsibilities could be clarified and the implementation of practical directives realised.'

Dr. Murphy's message was plain: The Confraternity would have to change and adapt itself to the changing social and economic conditions, or else it would become irrelevant. The Confraternity's response to the bishop's call has been slow and painful. The director at this time, Fr. Patrick Egan, came from the traditional die-hard Redemptorist school. His main claim to fame during his five-year stint in Limerick, was the successful mini-struggle he waged against two 'go-go' beat clubs for teenagers. The two clubs, owned by Dublin interests, folded up after short periods. It was, however, a Pyrric victory. Dancing did not cease among Limerick teenagers, and, indeed, under-age drinking and other anti-social habits have increased since that time.

In the last three years director, Fr. J. P. O'Riordan, has attempted to guide the Confraternity through a difficult, transitional period. Apart from a mild attack on the local Maoists and a half-hearted effort to explain the 1904 pogrom, Fr. O'Riordan kept his cool and refused to be drawn into controversy. He could not, however, staunch the steady leakage of members. It is against this background of conservatism and shrinking membership that the present director's 'new approach' must be considered.

The Limerick working class has traditionally worked in small family and service industries, and has consequently never become aware of itself as a separate class. In 1959, 72% of Limerick workers were employed in the service sector and only 25.6% in manufacturing trades. At this time the pattern of the average worker's life revolved around a few drinks and a sporting game at the week end with perhaps an occasional midweek stroll on the banks of the Shannon. In this world the weekly Confraternity sermon and meeting marked the highlight of his week. Yearly and half-yearly retreats and periodic missions helped to tie this bond even more tightly.

With the coming of free trade and the entry of foreign capital and capitalists, in the early 'sixties, living and working patterns began to change. Travel to and from the Shannon Industrial Estate, overtime and shift work have had a drastic effect on religious habits. The advent of television also affected leisure habits and traditional living patterns. The age of showbands and beat groups dawned and dancing boomed among the teenagers.

The Confraternity's decline is symptomatic of the Catholic Church's increasing helplessness in combating modern liberal capitalism, which is aimed at smashing all non-productive attitudes in Irish society, in an effort to increase profits and consumer spending on luxury goods, dancing, drink, etc. In this new situation power is passing from the rural farmer class to an expanding industrial class.

The influence of the Church on the everyday life of the workers is weakening, and the 'welcome be the will of God' approach, inculcated in a different age, does not mix easily with production charts, output bonus and profit-making.

The Confraternity today is seen by many young people as an irrelevant body, living in the past on its meaningless traditions, paying lip-service to social justice, singing mawkish hymns and using a boy-scout like spirit to promote a shallow feeling of brotherhood among members. The Confraternity appears to be paying the penalty for not giving enough credit to workers' intelligence and for having set their appeals at a low mental level. Because of this traditional approach, director Fr. V. Kavanagh, faces a difficult task. The Limerick working class is slipping out of the Confraternity grasp and influence. In their 'new approach' Fr. Kavanagh and his team are trying to flow with, rather than against capitalist history.

The roaring Redemptorist, with his 'stock-in-trade of hell-fire sermon and blackthorn stick, served Irish capitalism in its period of protectionism and narrow nationalism. A new image is now needed to help ease the way towards a more open, liberal society, common to the EEC countries. That the Redemptorists are to the fore in projecting this new image was highlighted by a report in the 'Sunday Press', March 26, '72 about a row between the bishop of Cork and that Order. The bishop was not satisfied with the 'new-type missions' of the Redemptorists, 'who have been the main promoters of the need for a new approach suited to the times.' The report continued: 'The bishop, it seems, favoured the old-style approach, with its preoccupation with death, 'the occasions of sin' and a concept of salvation, which had no obvious communal dimension. 'And while it may, undoubtedly, have served a purpose at one time, the needs of rapidly changing and increasingly urbanised society poses new challenges for which the traditional mission is no longer suited.'

The new era is calling forth a new type of religion and a new type of priest. The Redemptorists have begun to respond.

(END)

part two:

by joe kemmy

drug scene and you

AN INCREASING AMOUNT of newspaper space is being given to social problems in our society. It has been stated that the rate of mental illness in the 26-Counties is about 2½ times higher than in England and Wales. One third of the hospital beds here are occupied by mentally ill patients. Attempted suicides are on the increase. The spread of alcoholism has been cited as a further symptom of our sick society.

The growth of other forms of anti-social behaviour is another. Crimes against person and property and a general breakdown of morality have increased out of all proportions. The estimate for malicious damage in Limerick has jumped from £2,500 in '69-'70 to over £40,000 this year. And, of course, the increase in drug-taking continues to cause distress.

The basis for the present economic system of capitalism is production for profit. Competition in buying and selling, the effort to keep up with the cost of living, the pressure of high-powered advertising, etc., all contribute to the social problems. The Coca-Cola culture makes us feel inferior if we can't afford a luxury house, a flashy car and Costa Brava holidays.

These factors are the very essence of capitalism. Without these the system would fold up. Yes, capitalism works; production is kept up, more or less; techniques of production continue to improve; the system is able to supply most of our basic needs. But as capitalism develops the social problems created by it continue to worsen. In this context drug-taking is merely an attempt to escape from these problems.

Speaking at a meeting to launch the Limerick Junior Chamber of Commerce drug education programme C. S. O'Connor, 'an expert in the drug field,' said: '... drug users were from quite respectable homes, but parents were to blame because they themselves were too fond of over-socialising and simply threw their teenage sons and daughters a couple of quid and left them to fend for entertainment for themselves, while they, too, went to their social engagements.'

Referring to the drug education programme, an editorial in the 'Limerick Chronicle' of Jan. 29, stated: 'The programme will have the blessing of all who are interested in the future welfare of the city and keeping it a clean and wholesome place to live for future generations.' The 'Chronicle' did not, of course, give any indication of how this could be achieved.

Capitalism is making a bad job of trying to cure all the problems and misery of its sick society. What is required is a change from capitalism to socialism; the replacement of production for gain by production for use. When this is achieved there will be no need for people to escape from reality.

(End)

THE RENT STRIKE

by PASCHAL LONG

FOR THE PAST two months more than 300 tenants in Southill have been withholding rent because of a dispute with the Limerick Corporation. The cause for this dispute is the new method of assessing rent now being employed by the Corporation.

Already a number of tenants engaged in the strike have appeared in court, and, in at least two instances, the Corporation has been granted possession of houses because of the back-log of arrears. No effort has yet been made to evict the tenants because of the fear that an attempted eviction would trigger-off a more widespread rent strike.

In the past, the differential rent system had worked smoothly enough for the Corporation and there were no serious disputes with the tenants, who were not on a fixed differential until 1970. The Corporation then changed the assessment form, which previously excluded all mention of overtime, bonus, service pay and shift allowance, etc. It was stated on the new form (issued every 3 months), that all fringe benefits (overtime, bonus, service pay, etc.) would now be included for the purpose of assessing rent. The City

Manager directed that notices be sent to all major employers in the Limerick and Shannon areas, seeking the gross earnings of their employees on all future rent forms to be signed by the employers.

The Limerick Tenants' Association resisted this move, and, with the help of the trade unions, was able to convince the employers that they were not compelled to divulge anything other than the worker's basic wage. Most employers agreed with this and the remaining few soon changed their minds in the face of strong opposition from the workers.

After the failure of this attempt, the Corporation tried a new tactic. The Housing Officer, P. D'Arcy, was instructed to increase the rent of about twenty tenants by 50p per week, on the assumption that they were earning £3.00 per week more than their basic wages.

The Limerick Tenants' Association promptly instructed these tenants to refuse to pay the increase. All 20 refused and, after a short time, most of them were sent notices to quit. When these notices were not acted upon the Corporation decided to take 10 of the tenants to court.

The court cases were adjourned on a number of occasions and the Corporation seemed in no hurry to force the issue. Meanwhile the Tenants' Association continued to negotiate with the City Manager. The situation changed abruptly, however, when, as a result of an attempted eviction in Newmarket-on-Fergus, the National Association of Tenants' Organisations decided that it would no longer negotiate with Corporation officials, nor would it seek adjournments in any future court cases.

In a statement, Con Foley, Chairman of the Limerick Tenants' Association, said: 'that the NEC of NATO has ruled out discussions between the Tenants' Association and local authorities until such time as agreements reached between the Tenants' Associations and local authorities, i.e. City Managers, were accepted and sanctioned by the Minister for Local Government.'

During the next court case, the Corporation was taken by surprise when the Judge dismissed some of the cases on a legal technicality. This result seemed to strengthen the Tenants' Association's determination and soon afterwards it called for a total rent strike in Southill. This call was supported by over 300 tenants, who refused to pay any rent. Why was it, in an area with the city's highest rents, worst roads and the most unsatisfactory cleansing service, that only 25% of the tenants supported the strike?

One of the reasons could well be that the National Association of Tenants' Organisations, which claims to be 'non-political', has never attempted to explain the class nature of the tenants' position. One of the aims of NATO is that rent should be assessed on a fixed percentage of the tenants' income and that this rent be an 'economic' one. What they have failed to realise is that under the capitalist system there is no such thing as an 'economic' rent. The increasing competition between foreign and native land and property speculators has driven the price of houses and land up and up in a seemingly endless spiral. The latest figures available show that house prices have gone up by 124% in the last 10 years and, as money for local authority housing is borrowed on the open market, the Corporation, like everybody else, is subject to the same interest rates. As well as this, the building contractor seeks the highest possible return for his investment and the building of local authority housing to suit 'economic' rent would not be profitable enough for builders.

Tenants' Associations can win some small concessions in local issues such as the present one in Southill, but it is essential that they explain to their members the relationship between local authority housing and capitalism. For it is only when the people are aware of this relationship and are in possession of all the relevant facts that they can begin to do something about it. A genuine working class policy must be developed on this issue as well as on all others, if anything substantial is to be achieved. But a 'non-political' organisation like NATO is incapable of developing this policy, and until it takes on real political teeth, it is destined to remain nibbling harmlessly away within the framework of the present system.

all kinds of everything

THE PIECE may yet become a collector's item. It appeared, appropriately enough, on April 1, on the front page of the 'Limerick Chronicle'. But it wasn't an April Fool joke, as some people at first thought. The news item said: 'A new organisation has been formed in Limerick to oppose Ireland's full entry into the EEC. The Common Market Opposition Committee (Limerick) selected Alderman Stephen Coughlan, T.D., as chairman ... The following committee was appointed ... vice-chairman, Mr. Tom Joyce; secretary and PRO, Mr. Joseph Scallan; assistant secretary, Miss Catherine Wallace; treasurer, Mr. Frank Fitzgerald.' Included in the list of other committee members were people from both sections of Sinn Fein (Kevin St. and Gardiner Place) and Tom Kennedy, a life-long Fianna Fail member and a candidate of that party at the last local elections.

The report added: 'A statement from the new body states that it was formed because of the Government's failure to inform the general public on the implications of the proposed accession to full EEC membership, and also because it was felt that it would best serve the public interest for all parties opposed to the Common Market to unite.'

This information was issued to the press by Joe Scallan, the PRO of the new body. Scallan, a liberal, made his debut in local politics as chairman of the short-lived Committee to oppose Repressive Legislation. This committee issued a few statements and distributed leaflets but was not prepared to offer anything more than token, paper opposition to the Prohibition of Forcible Entry Bill, then going through the Dail. Scallan next surfaced as a leading member

of the Limerick Branch of the Common Market Defence Campaign. In this capacity he made a confused appearance on 'Confrontation' in the 'Limerick Leader', on March 18, '72, in which he said that 'the Common Market Defence Campaign is not against the EEC at all ... it was never against the EEC.' However, as secretary of the new body, he now states 'that it would best serve the public interest of all parties opposed to the Common Market to unite.' Liberalism and logic do not, obviously, go hand-in-hand.

The committee chairman, Ald. S. Coughlan, has yet to make a statement, but his contribution to the EEC debate should be interesting. T. Joyce, vice-chairman, is not anti-EEC in private but prefers to go through the motions of opposition in deference to his union, the ITGWU. The new body treasurer, F. Fitzgerald, is a conscious opponent of EEC entry in the interests of his class, the small-time capitalists.

The political bankruptcy of the Sinn Fein groups is shown by the manner in which they have readily sheltered behind this unprincipled bunch of opportunists and gombeen men. The committee is nothing more than a political cover for the opposition of petty capitalism to the extension of EEC trading conditions to Southern Ireland. It has nothing whatever to do with socialist politics and few workers will be fooled by the 'united' front bluff.

However, it cannot be denied that there is talent and variety in the committee. When the act is a bit more polished, this EEC road-show of tick-tack men, thimble-riggers and tumblers should be worth watching. It has all kinds of everything.

EEC CONFUSION CONFRONTED

THREE MEMBERS of the Common Market Defence Campaign recently debated against pro-EEC speakers on the question of this country's entry. A report of this 'Confrontation' appeared in two parts in the 'Limerick Leader' on 18 and 25 March. The exchange was remarkable for the badly-briefed speakers on both sides and for the welter of inaccuracies, distortions and confusion thrown up.

The anti-entry lobby got off to a bad start and its PRO, Joe Scallan, soon got into difficulties. Asked to reply to a point about unemployment outside the EEC he said: 'I should say at this stage that the Common Market Defence Committee is not against the EEC at all.' He added that his group 'was never against the EEC—only against its extension to Ireland. After this he went on to show that he did not know the difference between the Council of Ministers and the Commission.

Scallan later attempted to prove that because the EEC leads to central economic growth areas it is in some way different and that by staying out we can avoid playing the game according to the rules of capitalism. This is, of course, rubbish. The recent Lyons' survey on the distribution of wealth in Southern Ireland shows, at a conservative estimate, that 70% of the wealth is owned by 5% of the population.

At another stage the effect of entry on Irish workers was discussed and the chairman stated: 'We are coming back to Mr. Scallan here, and I want to ask him specifically about the redundancies which have been referred to by his group. On what grounds do you see these redundancies and what fear is there?' Scallan was stumped once again. He tried to pass the buck to his opponents and waffled: 'Well, I think Mr. O'Donovan has outlined what steps must be taken by the Government to safeguard the Irish worker ... I detect a note of serious concern seeing how short the time is between now and the Referendum. This brings me to an interesting case ...'; and here, rather than expose his lack of knowledge about the question, he took off on a tale about land purchase.

In dealing with agriculture, another member of the Defence Campaign, Breandain O Cathaoir, said that EEC entry would only serve the interests of big farmers. He claimed 'that we will be able to sell agricultural products at a good price if we remain outside of Europe.' When challenged on this assertion he could not give a realistic answer—because there is no answer. According to an OECD study, by 1980 the EEC will have a surplus in all agricultural products except cattle and sheep, if the present trend continues. There is now a constantly recurring surplus of products which have to be dumped on the world market and the present artificially-infected prices only accentuate the problem. (Germany, an industrial country, has continually fought against these high prices). If Ireland stays out there will be very little possibility for exports, except cattle and sheep, since other products will be, and even are already surplus.

All the small farmers, who mainly produce dairy produce, would rapidly go to the wall outside the EEC. O Cathaoir

TONY CROWLEY

stated that he was speaking for the small and middle farmer but he failed to point out that the small farming class has been in decline since the 1840s. This process in or out of the EEC, is inevitable. The cattle and sheep farmers, who must always, because of the nature of the production, tend to be the large capitalist farmers, will be the only ones guaranteed a steady market.

On the question of food prices the pro-EEC lobby is to the fore with a deliberate distortion of the facts. One of its spokesmen Paddy Lane said: 'If we got full value for our products like cheese, butter, beef, the housewife would already be paying these (high) prices ... but the housewife was getting a bargain and she doesn't realise this.' Without relating Lane's statement to real wage levels, comparisons are meaningless. The truth of the situation is that the Southern Ireland cost of living has been higher than in EEC countries. Real wages paid to Irish workers have been lower and it is only in free trade conditions that they have approached British levels. The free market tends to eliminate the differences in wage levels between workers employed in comparable industries. Irish housewives have been worse, not better off than EEC housewives.

But the star turn of the pro-EEC speakers was Donal O'Donovan. He tried to adopt a hard-headed businessman, no nonsense approach from the start: 'I will not be blinded ... by statistics... I will not be blinded by reports ... I want common sense facts thrown out at the table from my own experience of this country from 1932.

'Again I must say that for the first time in our history we have a chance of getting economically and financially free from a neighbour who has used us and get into an area where we can be financially and economically free from a neighbour who has a blind eye to our problems.'

O'Donovan did not explain how this economic freedom could be achieved, nor did he state that his own clothing firm had been taken over by the British firm, Aqua Scutum. At another stage of the discussion he attempted to give a potted history of industrial development in Southern Ireland: 'I remember 1932—I was going to school at that time—and 70,000 to 80,000 people a year were being exported out of this country at that time ... right up to 1958. One hundred thousand were unemployed ... the growth of wages of everybody in this country (is) from the backlash of what happened in the Common Market ... I am talking about the people I have working for me. A couple of years ago there wasn't a bicycle outside the factory in Limerick ... now everybody that is there have cars, television sets, new houses.'

O'Donovan's pseudo-scientific 'history' was not refuted by his opponents. In making his 'analysis' he showed that not only can he make clothes but he can also manufacture 'facts' when the occasion arises. His statement was, of course, a collection of fabrications and exaggerations. 70,000 or 80,000 people did not emigrate right up to 1958—60,000 was the peak (1955-'7) and the

level fluctuated between 18,712 (1936-'46), 24,384 (1946-51), 39,353 (1951-'56) and 42,401 (1956-'61).

O'Donovan gave no explanations about this unemployment and the subsequent changes under free-trade conditions. He 'will not be blinded by statistics'—he'll pick his own 'facts' to suit his concoction, and his 'common sense' is nothing more than a refusal to admit that anything could be wrong in the EEC.

Wage rises in Ireland are not 'as a backlash of what happened in the Common Market' but because of the development of capitalism in Ireland and the consequent struggle of Irish workers against their employers. The fact that the standard of living of Southern Irish workers is higher than ever before does not mean that the difference between the working class and the capitalist class has grown smaller (Lyons' study).

Does 'everybody' in O'Donovan's factory have 'cars, television sets and new houses?' More fantasy here. The percentage of workers at his factory with their own new houses and cars would make interesting reading. Any workers in this situation would be up to his tonsils in hire purchase and repayment debts.

In sharply denying that redundancy existed in the Limerick clothing industry, O'Donovan lost all his bearings: 'We have more workers employed now than we had two years ago ... and we are looking for a further one hundred workers in our factories at the moment.' This statement conflicts with another of his outbursts less than six months ago, when he addressed a meeting of his workers at the Glentworth Hotel. O'Donovan then advised many of the young men in his employment to start looking around for alternative work because the clothing industry was essentially a 'cheap labour' sector, mainly for girls and women.

It is too much to expect that the members of the Defence Campaign would have made these basic working class attitudes clear to O'Donovan and his colleagues. The nature of the committee's politics was made clear by a statement of its leading economist and policy-maker, Raymond Crotty: 'A strategy for Agriculture'.

'Article 45 of the Irish Constitution reads: 'The State shall, in particular, direct its policy toward securing ... that there shall be established on the land in economic security as many families as in the circumstances shall be practicable!'

'There are many mighty reasons why the Irish State should so direct its policy. Independent family farms can provide a more satisfying way of life than that of a rural or urban proletariat. Those who live on family farms are at once less likely to be caught up in the mass revolutionary movements of the cities and less likely to be affected by the great booms, slumps and subsequent mass unemployment of factory and commercial life, which are themselves the source of revolution.'

(Irish Agriculture and the Common Market 1970, p. 16).

The message here is clear. Working class political development and the socialist revolution are not on Crowley and his camp followers' agenda.

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WE ARE BORN into a society, a generation and a political system. From birth we are conditioned to accept so-called values and institutions, which we are led to believe, are necessary for the survival of mankind.

What are the forces that dictate our values and attitudes? To the worker who is not politically aware, it is a difficult task to understand the workings of capitalism. When names like Connolly and Marx are mentioned most workers 'switch-off' and some have even resorted to abuse or frightened physical force, not because of a profound political difference, but simply because they have been conditioned to react in this way. Let us examine the reasons for this reaction.

The political system under which we live is capitalism, which means that rich people invest money in various industries and business concerns and live off the profits of the workers. In these industries we can see the basic capital/labour conflict. The bosses of the industry are few, and they are rich, so they use every means to safeguard the profits. In order to run the factory, operate the machines, etc., the bosses (capitalists) need the skills of the workers (the working class) so that profits can be made. The 'buffer zone' between the two opposing classes (capitalist and working class) comes in the form of the middle-class (managers and professional people) whose job it is to keep the workers in place and to extract profits for the bosses.

An examination of the three classes shows how the bosses and professional people like solicitors, doctors, etc., unite to repress the workers.

The bosses are rich. They live in large houses, drive fancy cars and enjoy all the good things of life. Their money, got at the expense of the workers, passes on to their sons and daughters; so the cycle continues and the working class is caught up in this vicious circle.

The middle-class, which supports the bosses in exploiting the workers, also enjoys the good things of life. Its members live in fashionable districts, send their sons and daughters to college and instil in them the so-called 'values' of society. But these values are governed by capitalism, which stands to repress the workers, therefore these 'values' are merely hypocritical standards and function only to hinder working class political thought and action. Therefore the middle-class, and this includes liberals, are the enemies of the workers.

Finally, we have the working class, which is repressed by both the capitalists and the middle-class. How is it repressed? Let us consider the average worker trying to provide a decent living for his wife and family. He lives in a Corporation house in a reservation of second-class houses for second-class people. Why does the Corporation build thousands of ghetto-like houses into which the workers are herded? There is no good economic reason for this. The Corporation provides workers with the minimum housing facilities necessary for them to live, work and serve the bosses in their profit-making activities.

Workers are therefore exploited and discriminated against in every aspect of their working and living conditions. All this treatment prevents the intellectual and political development of the working class. Because it is the largest class the

WHY SOCIALISM?

working class could easily overthrow both the capitalists and the middle-class were it to assert its real power. Under capitalism the working class is permanently repressed. The system conditions workers to fear and denounce the ideas of Connolly and Marx, simply because these ideas are a threat to capitalism. This leads to the situation where the bosses use the workers to protect and defend the present anti-working class system. This is only one of the tactics of capitalism and it uses many more similar tricks to survive and continue its exploitation. We can thus see how effective and highly organised the system is in achieving its ends and in operating against the interests of the workers.

The problems facing socialists are many but the most difficult one is to make the workers aware of his or her importance and power. Workers have been so conditioned by the system, and this includes religion, education, politics, etc., that they are unable or unwilling to challenge the

institutions and 'values' of our society. This is particularly true in Ireland because for a very long time the working class has been divided against itself under the leadership of two opposing sections of capitalism, Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, who have used a vicious mixture of nationalism and religion to maintain their hold over the people. This hold must be broken as a first step to the overthrow of capitalism.

The task of uplifting the political awareness of workers is great, but it must act as a spur to all socialists to work harder for the goal of workers' power. Connolly made this plain when he said: 'The secret of the success of the Irish Socialist Republican Party lies not in the personality of its propagandists; it lies in the fact that all the propaganda and teachings of this party was from the outset based upon class struggle--upon recognition of the fact that the struggle between the 'haves' and 'have-nots' was the controlling factor in politics, and that this fight could only be ended by the working class seizing power and using this power to transfer the ownership of the means of life, viz., land and machinery of production, from the hands of private individuals to the community; from the individual to the social, or public ownership.'

COUNCIL COMMENTARY

The shock news of the local elections, called by the Taoiseach, Mr. Flynn, has had serious repercussions in Limerick. The City Council met in emergency session to plot ways of hanging on to their seats.

After three hours serious slugging white smoke was seen pouring from the Chamber and the voice of Ald. Grieve Mocklan, T.D., was heard shouting: 'The Bishop of Limerick is a great man. He told the Prods what to do. He is carrying on the wonderful tradition invented by Dr. McFraid, who recently retired in Dublin.'

Councillors were seen to rush from the building into Madame Bliza's fortune-telling caravan. This action demonstrates how desperate they were, and it is understood that Madame had 'em worried by forecasting that a certain councillor would end-up sweeping Southill; with a brush.

That well-known split personality, Phillip Bundon, issued a statement condemning the Taoiseach for not informing the St. Fairy's Labour Party Branch of the election. He also announced that he was forming a new party to act in the interests of the working class.

The new party was launched with a seven-course dinner reception in the Royal Gorge Hotel. It has at present four members, including Cllr. Bony Rommell, and Limerick's Sinister for Justice, Mr. Messie O'Dalley, has intimated that he may join. 'After all we both live in Corbally,' the Sinister is reported as having said.

With the shock news, other party machines swung into action, and there was a heavy demand for 3-in-1 oil.

Thousands of posters were pasted up in the city and hundreds of workers had difficulty in finding their places of employment.

Sen. Fed Mussell had to interrupt a game of golf in Castlesly, to address a crowd of four people outside St. Munchin's Church. It later transpired that they were

waiting for a wedding to arrive, hence the reason for the Senator's confetti reception.

Ald. Kat Renedy had 90,000 leaflets, showing himself and Sen. Ben Renedy, an American 10,000th cousin, distributed to Corporation houses. The demand was exceptional, but later he discovered the kids were burning the leaflets to keep warm.

Ald. Grieve Mocklan, T.D., has the resources of the 'Limerick Bleader' placed at his disposal. In the course of an out-of-depth interview he said he had saved the city from the scourge of contraception.

'When the count was taken we were there', he said. Yesterday evening he toured the Confraternity strongholds stressing that he had fought, long and hard, against the Contraception Bill, so that the girls of Limerick could not buy them like Peggy's legs.

'Our girls will remain pure,' he said, 'I will stick up for them in the Dail.'

There was a full-scale Garda search this morning when four councillors, begging for votes in O'Malley Park, were reported lost. Tracker dogs, given an empty whiskey bottle to sniff, were sent off on the trail. The Pity Manager visited the scene, and in a Bellyfis Eireann interview said it was a tragic case, as he needed four dummies to strike the rate.

It was later announced by the Government Information Bureau that the General Election had been cancelled; as the money had been given to the IRA to buy buns for the North.

There were massive demonstrations in Limerick after this announcement and outraged citizens ran amok through the streets shouting: 'go home ye bums, go home.'

Visitors thought Limerick had again won the FAI Cup but it was explained that the people were angry because they had been denied the opportunity of seeing the well-trained councillors taking part in the 17-ring election circus.